

CLAIMS:

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed and desired to be secured by Letters Patent is:

1. A carrier (10) removably installed in a bed (B) of a truck (T) for transporting articles (Y) from one location to another, comprising:

a base plate set on the truck bed with the width of the plate substantially corresponding to the width of the truck bed;

at least one saddle fitted into the base plate for supporting an article in place during transport of the article, the location of the saddle being adjustable along the width of the base plate; and,

a latching means for capturing an article in the saddle for the saddle to hold the article in place during transport.

2. The carrier of claim 1 in which the width of the base plate is slightly less than the width of the truck bed, and the carrier includes an adjustment mechanism for rigidly securing the base plate between sidewalls (W1, W2) of the truck bed.

3. The carrier of claim 1 including a plurality of saddles each of which separately supports an article, each saddle being fitted into the base plate and adjustable along the width of the base plate, the saddles being fitted into the base plate with a spacing between adjacent saddles such that the articles supported thereon do not interfere with each other.

4. The carrier of claim 3 wherein each saddle comprises a pair of risers with the articles being held in place between the risers.

5. The carrier of claim 4 further including means for adjusting the spacing between the risers so the saddles can support articles of different sizes.

6. The carrier of claim 5 wherein the saddle includes a pair of mounting blocks mounted to the base plate with one of the risers supported by each mounting block.

7. The carrier of claim 6 wherein the base plate has a plurality of spaced tracks extending the width of the base plate parallel to each other, the mounting blocks having pins received in at least two of the tracks to mount the mounting blocks to the track.

8. The carrier of claim 7 wherein the tracks are equidistantly spaced from each other, thereby allowing the mounting blocks for one saddle to be mounted in an offset

relationship from one of the other saddles thereby to stagger the position of the articles carried by the saddles.

9. The carrier of claim 4 wherein the latching means includes an adjustment screw for tightening the risers together after an article is set between them, thereby to hold the article in place.

10. The carrier of claim 4 further including pads located on an inner face of each riser to cushion the article held between the risers and prevent damage to the article.

11. The carrier of claim 8 in which the base plate has two sections, a first section whose width substantially corresponds to the width of the truck bed, and a second section shorter in width than the first section.

12. The carrier of claim 11 in which the second section is centered with the first section.

13. The carrier of claim 12 in which the second section has the same number of tracks as the first section, the spacing between tracks also corresponding that of the tracks in the first section.

14. The carrier of claim 7 further including locking means for locking each mounting block in place once it has been positioned along the base plate.

15. The carrier of claim 4 in which the risers are curved risers.

16. The carrier of claim 15 in which the articles carried by the carrier are bicycles or motorcycles and the risers are curved risers whose curvature generally corresponds to the that a bicycle tire or motorcycle tire.

17. The carrier of claim 12 further including pads fitted to the underside of the base plate to prevent the base plate from scratching the surface of the truck bed when installed.

18. A carrier kit removably installed in a truck bed (B) for transporting articles (Y) from one location to another, comprising:

a base plate set on the truck bed with the width of the plate substantially corresponding to the width of the truck bed;

a saddle fitted into the base plate for supporting an article in place during transport of the article, the location of the saddle being adjustable along the width of the base plate; and,

a latching mechanism for capturing an article in the saddle for the saddle to hold the article in place during transport; and,

storage means for storing the components when the carrier is disassembled.

19. The carrier kit of claim 18 in which the base plate has two sections, a first section whose width substantially corresponds to the width of the truck bed, and a second section shorter in width than the first section, and a plurality of spaced tracks extending parallel to each other the width of each base plate section, the tracks being equidistantly spaced from each other.

20. The carrier kit of claim 19 further including a plurality of saddles each of which separately supports an article, each saddle comprising a pair of risers with the articles being held in place between the risers and a pair of mounting blocks mounted to the base plate with one of the risers supported by each mounting block, the mounting blocks being fitted into the base plate and adjustable along the width of the base plate, the saddles being fitted into the base plate with a spacing between adjacent saddles such that articles supported thereon do not interfere with each other.

21. The carrier kit of claim 20 further including means for adjusting the spacing between the risers so the saddles can support articles of different sizes.

22. The carrier kit of claim 20 wherein the latching means includes an adjustment screw for tightening the risers together after an article is set between them, thereby to hold the article in place.

23. The carrier kit of claim 19 further including pads fitted to the underside of each base plate section to prevent the base plate from scratching the surface of the truck bed when installed.

24. The carrier kit of claim 20 further including pads located on an inner face of each riser to cushion the article held between the risers and prevent damage to the article.

25. The carrier kit of claim 24 in which the risers are curved risers.

26. The carrier kit of claim 24 in which the articles carried by the carrier are bicycles or motorcycles and the risers are curved risers whose curvature generally corresponds to the that a bicycle tire or motorcycle tire.